

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method comprising the steps of:

(a) recording an image on a material by an ink jet recording system using water-based ink comprising a colorant;

5 (b) laying a protective layer-imparting material comprising a support and a layer comprising a radiation-curing compound that is capable of being a resin at curing, the layer being capable of being released from the protective layer-imparting material, on a surface of the material in such 10 a way that the surface of the material and the layer face each other;

(c) laminating the surface of the material and the protective layer-imparting material by at least one of heating and the application of pressure;

15 (d) curing the layer by irradiation of a radiation to form a protective layer; and

(e) releasing the support from the protective layer-imparting material.

20 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the method is carried out by one of three processes of:

1) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (d) and step (e), in order;

25 2) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (e) and step (d), in order; and

3) step (a), step (b), step (c), step (d), step (e) and  
step (d), in order.

3. The method of claim 1, which further comprising drying  
5 process after recording an image on a material by an ink jet  
recording system using water-based ink comprising a colorant.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is a  
water-soluble dye.

10 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is an  
oil-soluble dye.

15 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the water-based ink  
further comprises a high boiling organic solvent.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the colorant is a  
pigment.

20 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the oil-soluble dye  
and the high boiling organic solvent are dispersed in the  
water-based ink in an average particle size of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

25 9. The method of claim 7, wherein the pigment is dispersed  
in the water-based ink in an average particle size of 1  $\mu\text{m}$  or

less.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the water-based ink further comprises a water-soluble organic solvent.

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11. The method of claim 1, wherein the material comprises a support and an image receiving layer comprising a white inorganic pigment particle.

10 12. The method of claim 1, wherein the protective layer has a thickness of from 0.1  $\mu\text{m}$  to 50  $\mu\text{m}$  when the protective layer is dry.

13. An image-recorded material comprising a protective  
15 layer prepared by the method of claim 1.